Cauſes of a ſolemne Faſt and Humiliation to be keeped, by Ordinance of the Commiſsioners of the Generall Aſſembly, in all the Kirks of this Kingdom, *and in our Armies at home and abroad, upon the laſt Lords Day of October, and the Wedneſday following.*

WE have great cauſe to be humbled in ſolemne manner by Faſting and Prayer, becauſe we ſee the anger of God is kindled againſt us, in an unwonted and extraordinary way, as is evidently ſeen and felt. 1. By the ſlow progreſſe of the much-wiſhed and deſired Work of Reformation and intended Uniformitie in Publike Worſhip and Church-government in all his Majeſties Dominions. 2. By the long continuance of theſe bloody and unnaturall Warres within theſe Kingdomes. 3. By this unhappy Diviſion betwixt the King and his Subjects, fomented by the Popiſh and Prælaticall Faction, with their adherents, Malignants and Delinquents. And 4. By the breach already made by a contemptible crew, naked and unarmed, upon our dear Brethren in Stratherne, Fyfe, Aberdeen, and other parts in the North, with effuſion of much Chriſtian blood, forcing of women, and ſpoiling of goods, whereby many honeſt women are made deſolate Widows, many children Fatherleſſe, and whole Families brought to extreame povertie.

I. It is to be lamented, that notwithſtanding theſe judgements while the Lord is thus ſharply chaſtiſing us, yet we look more to the immediate and ſecond Cauſes of theſe evils than to the Supreme, Gods Providence and Permiſſion in his juſtice correcting us.

II. There is no Reformation of our lives, notwithſtanding of our ſolemne Vowes made by our Covenants, and promiſes of amendment in our frequent Humiliations by Faſting and Prayer; Family Exerciſes being neglected, and by many mocked; The Lords Sabbaths profaned, and Fornications, Adulteries, Inceſts, Drunkenneſſe, and other hainous ſins ſtill abounding.

III. The great and fearfull ſinnes of our Armies abroad (as we are informed) meeting with our ſinnes at home, as uncleanneſſe, blaſphemy, ſpoyle and rapine indifferently, of our friends, aſwell as of theſe who are diſaffected, whereas before their piety and devotion was admired, and ſo they were the more formidable to their enemies, now little difference twixt ours and the Malignant Armies, ſave in the [illegible]

V. Impunitie, or slight censure, or punishment, of known Incendiaries and Malignants, wherein both Ecclesiasti-call and Civill Judicatories are faultie, and thereby themselves made guilty likewise of the cruelty, villany, and other mischiefs committed by these un-naturall Countrey-men, and their Followers.

VI. Perjurie, in not discovering and delating Incendiaries and Malignants, conforme to our vow and promise in our late solemne League and Covenant; for Malignant Ministers are not delated for wresting the good intentions of the chief Instruments of this Work of Reformation; for carping at the equitie and lawfulnesse of our Covenants, and of our defensive Warres, or for their silence in not informing and confirming from time to time the people therein: Neither are Professors, whereof there are a great number delated for their Malignancie in taxing our Covenants, and the proceedings of Persons and Judicatories in the publick Cause [redacted]

VII. Perjurie, for not assisting our Brethren joyned with us in Covenant, in person, or by our meanes and moyen in this present Cause, according to our promise in our Covenants.

VIII. Confidence in our Armies at home and abroad, and their Commanders, and an arrogant conceit of our own valour and zeale to the puritie of Religion; for at first when we were naked men without Arms, without experience of the Discipline of Warre, without the mutuall help of our Neighbour Nation, we did depend on God who fought for us, and made us see his salvation: But now presuming upon our power, number of Men and Arms, skill in Warre, and of our confederacy with England, and puft up with our former successe and Victories, we have fallen off from God, leaned to the Arme of Flesh, pleasing our selves in the name of courage, to which our late punishment by Gods just judgement is made suteable; for being left to our selves, albeit armed and carrying Bows, with *Ephraim* we turned back in the Day of Battel, and fled as the *Israelites* before *Ai*, so we fled before a base un-armed, and inconsiderable Enemy.

IX. Thanksgivings for any victories the Lord hath given us, either coldly performed, or soon forgotten.

X. The great and deep security we are into, not being wakened by the noise of Gods judgements on the Churches of Germany, England, and Ireland, neither yet being sensible of the judgements hanging over this Land, yea, begun to fall already, the bloody Sword which heretofore threatned us at our Borders, being come even to the heart of our Kingdome; Nor have we that fellow-feeling of the pitifull estate of our afflicted Brethren, farre from *Uriah* and *Nehemiahs* zeale, who sympathized in their Brethrens crosses, yet who is moved amongst us, or layes to heart.

A. Ker.

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